

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 24, 26-33, 35 and 37-38 are pending in this application. Claims 7-23, 25, 34 and 36 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended as shown above. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has stated that claims 34-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant further notes that the examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 16, 17, 22 and 24-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the combination of the Day and Szemler references.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's §103(a) rejection. Applicant reserves the right to assert the canceled claims, as well as any earlier versions of claims 1 and 24, in any future divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application.

Solely to speed prosecution of the instant application, applicant has amended claims 1 and 24 to include the content of their respective dependent claims 34 and 36. Claims 34 and 36 respectively depended directly from claims 1 and 24. Therefore, Applicant notes that the dependent claims have been incorporated in their respective base claims, and further that there are no intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully maintains that the above claim amendments have placed this application in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of the claim amendments and the speedy issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

No fee is believed to be necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if any additional fee is necessary, applicant hereby authorizes such fee to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Dated: May 22, 2006

By: /Henry J. Cittone/
Henry J. Cittone, Esq. (Reg. No. 57,206)
Barry Evans, Esq. (Reg. No. 22,802)
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036